Queen Anne Cobblestone™

The Newsletter for the Queen Anne Historical Society

Annual Meeting Edition **May 1999**

The *Queen Anne Cobblestone*™ is the official newsletter of the Queen Anne Historical Society.

Officers/Board of Trustees 1998 - 1999

President
John Hennes
284-2266

Vice President (1st)
Mickey Howard
282-4195

Vice President (2nd)
Newsletter Associate Editor
Kim R. Turner
386-4183

Secretary
Ray Bowman
559-3157

Treasurer
Will Shopes
842-4376

Archives (Interim)
Bob Frazier
285-0958

Membership
Nadine Belcher
284-8369

Programs (Co-Chair)
Phil Howard
282-4195

Public Relations/Newsletter Editor
Anthony Salazar
784-4021

Research/Distinguished Queen Anners
Del Loder
282-8771

Schools/Programs (Co-Chair)
Isabel Egglin
286-3605

Technology
Ron Mason
654-9605

No part of this publication may be reproduced in any format without the expressed written permission of the Queen Anne Historical Society.

RENOWN CHARACTER ACTRESS TO BE FEATURED PERFORMER AT ANNUAL MEETING; ELECTION OF OFFICERS ALSO SLATED

It's that time again! The Annual Meeting and the election of new Officers and Board members is upon us once again! Join us, Wednesday, May 19th at 7:30 p.m., when we will be featuring not only the elections, but also, Puget Sound storyteller Debbie Dimitre.

Dimitre will portray environmentalist Rachel Carson. Dimitre has been a character performer and actress for over ten years. Other characters she has performed include: Eleanor Roosevelt, Molly Pitcher, and Louisa Boren. (A biography on Carson appears on page five.)

Rachel Carson, as seen through Dimitre's eyes and words, was one of the country's first environmentalists. It was Carson's love and respect for nature that spurned her into a life as a writer, scientist and activist. Carson was dedicated to educating people about nature and environmental issues.

In addition to the presentation, elections will be held to determine the 1999-2000 Queen Anne Historical Society's Board of Trustees. This body is elected annually to carry out the goals and objectives of your Queen Anne Historical Society. Should you be interested in joining the Board of Trustees in a specific capacity, call Society President John Hennes at (206) 284-2266 for more details.

This public meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. and a voluntary donation of $5.00 will be requested. The event will be held at McClure Middle School Library at 1915 1st Ave. W. in Queen Anne. For more information, contact Anthony Salazar at 784-4021.

how to contact us:

Queen Anne Historical Society
PO Box 19432
Seattle, WA 98109-1432

qahist@scn.org **www/scn.org/neighbors/qahs**

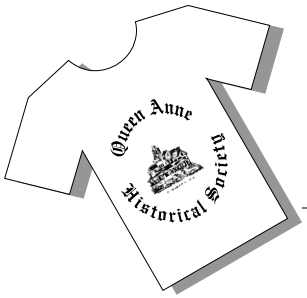
Inside

The May Program.....1
The Neighborhood Paper.....3
A Retroview.....4
Society News and Notes.....5
From the President.....8

Membership Notice

Membership fees for the 1999-2000 season are now due. If you do not renew by July 31st, you will receive a renewal letter. Should you not renew by the end of September, you will be dropped from the roster. For more information, contact Nadine Belcher at 284-8369.

Thanks for being a part of a great organization!



On Sale Now!

Get your official
Queen Anne Historical Society t-shirt

send check or money order for $12.00 to:
Queen Anne Historical Society
PO Box 19432 • Seattle, WA 98109-1432
indicate t-shirt size (S/M/L/XL/XXL)

The Society's Wish List

We wish for a permanent home for our society, to meet, house our archives and be able to have researchers use.

Media equipment:
(Program preservation & archival use)
- VCR/monitor
- Cameras
- Tape recorder

Volunteers:
- Walking tour assistance
- Research work
- Channel 9 fundraising when QAHS is asked to participate.
- Archival tape transcription
- Committee assistance

And of course, more members!!!

The QAHS is a 501 (c)(3)non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Queen Anne Historical Society was formed to record and preserve, in permanent form, the history of the settling of the Queen Anne community and to develop with the community an appreciation and concern for its history and its historical sites.

Yes, I want to join the Queen Anne Historical Society in preserving our community's heritage and promoting the public's understanding of its past.

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Member Category: (check one)

___ Individual	$10	___ Patron	$50
___ Family	$15	___ Sustaining	$75
___ Student	$ 5	___ Benefactor	$200
___ Senior	$ 5	___ Contribution only	$_____

___ I would like to become active in the Queen Anne Historical Society

Return with payment to: QUEEN ANNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY PO Box 19432 Seattle, WA 98109-1432

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 19th
Program: "Rachel Carson, Environmentalist," as portrayed by Debbie Dimitre. McClure Middle School Library, 7:30 pm.

May 23rd
Walking Tour: A Neighborhood Tour with St. Anne's School. Meet at 1st and Lee Sts. 11 am. Contact Wyn Pottinger at 282-5389.

June 19th
Walking Tour: A Tour through Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. Meet at 7th and Raye Sts. 10 am.

Own a piece of history!

Queen Anne: Community on the Hill

published by the Queen Anne Historical Society

230 pgs. stories, maps & photos

AVAILABLE NOW FOR

mail check or money order to:
Queen Anne Historical Society
PO Box 19432 • Seattle, WA 98109-1432

$25.00

Queen Anne's Newspaper: The First 30 Years

"Beginning January 2, 1920, the Queen Anne community gained another voice, the *Queen Anne News*. This newspaper was founded by Mrs. Katherine L. Hamilton, her daughter Juanita, a teacher, and her son Rupert, a journalism student at the University of Washington. Rupert, then twenty, became the editor. The newspaper office was located in the newly-opened YMCA Center in Leibly Hall at Queen Anne Avenue N. and Boston Street.

"Additional assistance came from Rupert Hamilton's university professors and the head of the University of Washington's Printing Department, who helped arrange the printing of the *Queen Anne News* at the *University Herald* print shop. Katherine and Juanita Hamilton financed the founding of the community's newspaper with great personal sacrifice.

"Initially, Rupert wrote the copy. However, this proved too much for him alone, and soon Juanita began writing as the news release editor. In the first weeks her duties expanded to include advertising copy editor, bookkeeper and office manager. Rupert eventually found that rather than writing copy he preferred spending his time walking around the com-munity with Arthur Bailey, the paper's advertising salesman, selling advertisement space and picking up news items. At the end of 1920 circulation reached 3,500.

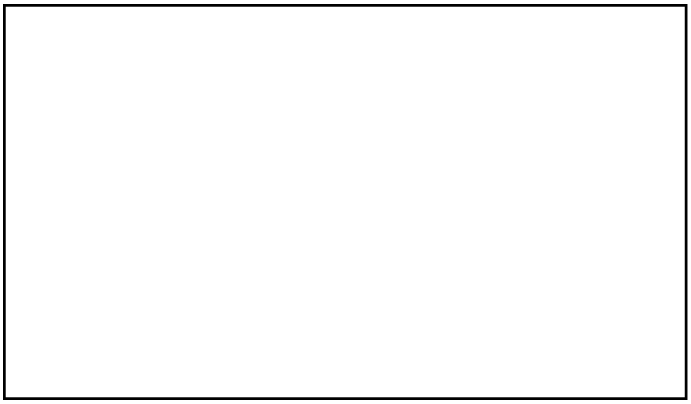
"In 1921 F. Clyde Dunn, a college classmate of Rupert Hamilton, bought the *Queen Anne News* and was editor for the next 18 years. Community improvement projects, such as street paving, sidewalks, sewers, parks and trolley lines, were the frequent focus of the news. The inside pages were devoted largely to social notices.

"Retaining ownership, Dunn turned the editorship over to Curtis Barnard in December 1939.

The first issue of the *Queen Anne News*, printed January 2, 1920. courtesy *Queen Anne News*

By 1941 Barnard joined the armed forces, leaving the paper under Charles A. Gerold's editorship, who bought the paper in 1943. In the burst of prosperity that followed the war, the Queen Anne News expanded to eight pages. Local and downtown Seattle stores regularly ran one-half and full-page advertisements. The focus of the news was primarily on local activities and concerns."

RetroViews of the Hill



Looking SE on W Mercer PL from Elliott Ave W, August 3, 1921. Courtesy UW Special Collections.

What a difference almost 80 years make! Photo by John Hennes.

The West Side of Queen Anne Hill

Imagine if you will a street paved in lumber that looks something like you would see on a railroad track. Imagine again, that the roads all look like this.

We're looking at the Queen Anne street in 1921. It looks kind of strange to see the streets as they were almost 80 year ago. It was not too long ago before the lumber placement that this street had been covered with dirt.

The wooden pieces of lumber helped to keep the cars from sinking in the mire of mud when the rains came. And this being Seattle, you know the rains would inevitably arrive.

You'll notice that the Mercer Place of 1921 seems much more wider than its contemporary version. The railroad tracks allowed the Seattle transportation routes an area in which to run.

Meanwhile, the Mercer Place and Elliott Avenue of 1999 is teeming with traffic, and as most may know, Seattle's Metro still runs buses along this same route.

Elliott Avenue runs along the most western part of Queen Anne, and serves as a conduit for connecting the downtown waterfront area with a direct route to the Magnolia Bridge and the Ballard Bridge.

It would be interesting to see the photos, if they exist, of the 1921 areas of Queen Anne right above where the left photo was taken, and that below it as well.

— Anthony Salazar

On Sale!

READ!

Queen Anne, now at a great price!

Queen Anne: Community on the Hill
available at bookstores throughout the Hill including:
Tower Books ❁ Queen Anne Avenue Books
Seattle Pacific University Bookstore
Queen Anne Mail & Dispatch
Mount Pleasant Cemetery

SOCIETY NEWS AND ACTIVITY NOTES TEXT BY JOHN HENNES

McClure Eighth Graders Again Tour Mt. Pleasant

For the third year in a row, a large group of eighth grade students from McClure Middle School will be receiving an educational tour of Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, sponsored by your Historical Society. The tours, scheduled for May 18-20, will provide the young students with a multicultural perspective of how our city and region came to be the way it is. Grave sites of both old and recently departed are visited to show how both events and individuals, of all races and ethnic backgrounds, have built our communities.

The tours were begun through the initiative of Isabel Egglin, our past President. She continues to coordinate this program. The faculty at McClure have come to value this experience for their students. The tours will all be in the mid-day hours. If you would like to help with this program, and can be available from 11-1pm on those days, please call Isabel Egglin at 206-286-3605.

St. Anne's Home Tour Scheduled

A rare opportunity to visit some of Queen Anne's finer homes and gardens will be available on Sunday, May 23, 1999. On that date, from 12-4 pm, the St. Anne's parents organization is holding a walking tour of six homes and gardens, plus St. Anne's school and gardens.

The tour is a fund raising event for St. Anne's School and the Christmas in April foundation. The Queen Anne Historical Society is supporting the tour by providing historical materials on the houses being visited. We will also be selling our Queen Anne history book during the tour at a special tour price of $20.

Volunteers are sought to help with monitoring each house and the school areas. If you have time to give, contact St. Anne parent, Wyn Pottinger at 282-5389. The tour will cost about $15. Details will be available shortly. Watch for an article in the *Seattle Times* on Sunday, May 9.

A COBBLESTONE SPECIAL

A Short Biography on Rachel Carson: Environmentalist/Author/Activist

"Rachel Carson, writer, scientist, and ecologist, grew up simply in the rural river town of Springdale, Pennsylvania. Her mother bequeathed to her a life-long love of nature and the living world that Rachel expressed first as a writer and later as a student of marine biology.

"She was hired by the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries and supplemented her income writing feature articles on natural history for the *Baltimore Sun.* She began a fifteen-year career as a scientist and editor in 1936. In 1952 she published her prize-winning study of the ocean, *The Sea Around Us*, which was followed by *The Edge of the Sea* in 1955.

"In *Silent Spring* (1962) she challenged the practices of agricultural scientists and the government, and called for a change in the way humankind viewed the natural world. Rachel Carson died in 1964 after a long battle against cancer. Her witness for the beauty and integrity of life continues to inspire new generations to protect the living world and all its creatures." *source — www.rachelcarson.org*

SOCIETY NEWS AND ACTIVITY NOTES TEXT BY JOHN HENNES

Century 21-Revisited Tour A Success

Those glorious days of yesteryear came alive on Saturday, April 24, as Ray Bowman, assisted by Kim Turner, walked a group through the Seattle Center grounds and relived the magic days of 1962 and the Seattle Worlds Fair.

The Century 21 Exposition had its beginnings in the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition of 1909. In the late 1950s, a desire to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the AYP ended up becoming a major world event. The
launching of Sputnik in 1957 provided the science theme. Ray's tour showed how the Fair proponents, Seattle, the State and finally the Federal government all came together to produce the remarkable Century 21. Ray was a tour guide during the fair and had many amusing stories of visitors and events.

Kim Turner, then a young man just out of high school, brought some of his collection of World's Fair clippings and photos. He also added some of the historical background about the Civic Center buildings that formed the foundation for the fair grounds, and are still there as part of Seattle Center.

The Century 21 fair was just 37 years ago, but for the thousands of new and young dwellers in Seattle it seems as remote as World War II. The walking tours that the Queen Anne Historical Society conducts have become one of our principal means of bringing the past to today's Queen Anners. Perhaps you have ideas for tours, or better yet, can help pull together material for some future tour. Talk to any Board member to get started.

Plan Now to Attend the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Walking Tour

This year's walking tour of Mt. Pleasant Cemetery is scheduled for Saturday, June 19 at 10 am. This tour of Seattle and the Northwest's past, as seen through the stories contained in the stones of Mt. Pleasant, has become one of the Society's most popular events.

Our perspectives of any cemetery are colored by our own experiences of death and dying, by our culture's views of life and death and by the physical presence of the cemetery's grounds and markers. In this tour we take a walk through some Northwest history and find the rich cultural diversity of the people and events that have produced our community.

People of many ethnic and cultural backgrounds have built Seattle, and the echo of their lives and stories is contained in the stones, if we take the time to find them. A cemetery is like a history book. Real people make up its pages, and the book is going to be there next month or next century. Each year new pages are added. Unfortunate, but part of the sweep of history that we are all part of.

Join this year's tour on Saturday, June 19 at 10 am at the entrance to Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, at 7th Ave W. and W. Raye St. Call John Hennes, at 206-284-2266, if you have questions.

From the Desk of the Editor by Anthony Salazar

It is with deep regret that I leave the Board of Trustees as its chair of Public Relations and editor of the *Queen Anne Cobblestone*.

I have enjoyed my tenure with the Queen Anne Historical Society these past several years. I came to Seattle in 1993, and settled in Wallingford, before being lured to Queen Anne. Within my brief stay on the Hill, I came to appreciate not only the quality of its history, but the intrinsic value that its community members and neighbors place on the stories of the past.

I'm an urban and social historian, so this stuff is really interesting to me. I've studied many American metropolitan cities, but this was the first opportunity I had to study a community at a micro-level. We're talking about a neighborhood we can almost literally trace since the founding of Seattle itself, and even before that!

It seems to me that Queen Anners have quite a treasure on their hands. Some of you reading this are included in this category. You are Queen Anne past. You alone have the stories that should be told. One of the greatest tools, an underused tool at that, is the subject of oral history. You would be amazed at the amount of information you have stored in your head. I would therefore urge you to tell your story to someone. Call one of us in the Society. We can tape your conversation for all posterity.

A good example of this was a serendipity day for me. I happened to be wandering through the streets of the south slope, and stopped at a corner to look at a house, which was currently up for sale. I noticed an elderly gentleman approaching me.

When he got close enough, he asked me what I thought about the house. I gave him my opinion, and wondered who he was. As it turned out, I just met Edo Vanni. I'm sure many of you know Edo. I didn't until I asked.

Edo is a native Queen Anner. He went to Queen Anne High School, and starred in several sports, baseball being one them. Edo, you just said the magic word. I'm an absolute baseball freak! Just love it! Edo goes on to explain that he was a part of the championship Seattle Rainiers baseball club that won the Pacific Coast League in 1939, 1940 & 1941.

Wow! This is cool, I think to myself. Bear in mind, we're still on the corner of this street talking about all this! The writer in me says: Get his number and arrange for an interview! Don't let him get away! And so, I do.

At a later date, I meet Edo at his home, with notepad and tape recorder in hand, ready and eager to hear his tales from baseball lore. We spent a good three hours or so, talking about baseball past and present. As a baseball historian, I will say this now that those were a thrilling three hours!

Within that time, I managed to accomplish all the goals an historian should, and I had a great time being reveled in minor league baseball past.

I mention this story now to illustrate that everyone in this community has a lot to share about their past. We struggle a lot of the times to fill in the gaps of the knowledge that we already have. Those stories that we can benefit from go often untold, mainly because we don't know what is out there.

What you can do for us, and maybe yourself, is to tell your story, and help us fill in the gaps in Queen Anne's history. Believe it or not, you're a vital part of that history. Don't go away without telling us who you are, and what you did.

I happened to get lucky one day, and got a great story I can't wait to share! I hope that you will continue to support the Queen Anne Historical Society. It's a great organization, and has quite a future in telling the past. Be good to your community on the Hill. And thanks for letting me be a part of it!

The President's Corner by John Hennes

It has been another year in the life of our Society. Remember that our fiscal and organizational year runs from June 1 to May 31. This is why we come to you each year at this time requesting your renewal of membership. I hope you will rejoin as soon as possible. We rely, not just on the kindness of strangers (who buy our books), but even more on you, our friends. Our member dues, which are still among the lowest in the heritage field, provide the bulk of our operating expenses.

We also rely on the good heart and good instincts of our members for their volunteer support for Society activities. Our goals are not only to preserve a record of our history, but also to pass that history on to our neighbors, many of whom are new to the Hill and to Seattle. We need your help in this task. The Society is a small organization and every person's contribution makes a big difference. If you could share your ideas at our monthly Board meetings, or lend your time to a specific activity, know that it does matter.

Finally, I want to give special thanks to one of our retiring Board members, Anthony Salazar. Anthony is the Editor of this newsletter, *The Cobblestone*, and has turned it into an excellent and professional looking publication. He has also provided much of our publicity material and conceived several activities, such our Volunteer's Workshop in February. Anthony, and his wife, Rose have bought a house and moved to (dare I say it) Ballard. His time is now taken up with yards and puppies and other things "newlyweds" do. This creates a hole for us, and an opportunity for someone else, maybe you?

Our lives and the Society are in constant change. So is Queen Anne. Why don't you join us and not only make history, but preserve it also!

John can be reached at telephone 206-284-2266 or
e-mail: jhennes@nwnexus.com

Interested in becoming more involved with the Queen Anne Historical Society? Join the Board of Trustees! Call John Hennes at (206) 284-2266 for more details about the May Elections.

Queen Anne Historical Society
PO Box 19432
Seattle, WA 98109-1432

www.scn.org/neighbors/qahs
qahist@scn.org

Correct Address Requested

In This Issue... The May Program & the Annual Elections, plus Queen Anne's Paper!